

Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto passed through here around 1540. **Continuing on N.C. 9, pass through Hickory Nut Gorge.** The gorge runs southeast from Hickory Nut Gap and drops 1,800 feet before ending at Lake Lure.

The resort community of Lake Lure was established in 1927 and provided the scenery for the movie "Dirty Dancing." Before **crossing Pool Creek, where N.C. 9 and U.S. 64/74A split**, notice the historic resort hotel on the right. Pool Creek is home to North Carolina's famous bottomless pools. The erosion of ancient rock formed these unique water features. This is a privately operated site that charges an admission fee.

To continue following the byway, backtrack along U.S. 64 West eight miles to Bat Cave along the winding edge of Lake Lure. **In Bat Cave, follow**

U.S. 64 toward Hendersonville. Along this six-mile route, enjoy the beautiful masses of mountain laurel and some of North Carolina's finest apple orchards. This area was settled in 1830. **The Black Mountain Rag byway ends at Mills Gap Road (S.R. 1586).** Nearby is the resort community and Henderson County seat, Hendersonville. To visit poet and author Carl Sandburg's home, drive along the Historic Flat Rock Scenic Byway (pg. 37).



Length: 31 miles
Drive Time: 45 minutes
Counties: Buncombe, Rutherford and Henderson



Note: The route is not recommended for recreational vehicles or buses.

